

In The Abstract:

Delete the present Abstract and in its place insert the following:

--Abstract Of The Disclosure

A5
A method in which a user first receives from a Trust Center a generated, personalized, and certified key pair as well as components for producing encryption pairs. The user at any time himself produces an encryption key pair, marks the public part of this pair using the secret signature key relinquished to him, and transmits the result to the Trust Center, where the result is assigned to the user using the certified public part of the signature key pair.--.

Remarks

This Preliminary Amendment cancels claims 1-3 in the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/EP98/07984, and adds new claims 4-6. The new claims do not add new matter to the application but do conform the claims to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules.

The amendments to the specification and abstract are to conform the specification and abstract to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules. The amendments to the specification and abstract do not introduce new matter into the application.

The underlying PCT application includes a Search Report dated May 6, 1999, a copy of which is submitted herewith.

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Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious, and useful.
Consideration and allowance of the claims are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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